



**FRANKFURT
ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

Frankfurt Zoological Society

Conserving wildlife and ecosystems
focusing on protected areas and outstanding wild places





Sexual Selection, Temperature, and the Lion's Mane

Peyton M. West* and Craig Packer

The mane of the African lion (*Panthera leo*) is a highly variable trait that reflects male condition and ambient temperature. We examined the consequences of this variation in a long-term study of lions in the Serengeti National Park, Tanzania. Mane darkness indicates nutrition and testosterone and influences both female choice and male-male competition. Mane length signals fighting success and only appears to influence male-male assessment. Dark-maned males enjoy longer reproductive life-spans and higher offspring survival, but they suffer higher surface temperatures, abnormal sperm, and lower food intake during hot months of the year. Maned males are hotter than females, and males have lighter and/or shorter manes in hotter seasons, years, and habitats. This phenotypic plasticity suggests that the mane will respond to forecasted increases in ambient temperature.

Sexually selected indicator traits reflect male health and vigor (1), revealing how well individuals withstand environmental stress (2, 3). Environmental effects on trait morphology can be substantial (4, 5), outweighing both genetic effects (6) and reproductive advantages (7). Changing environmental conditions can alter trait costs, leading to the evolutionary loss of sexual ornaments (8) or possibly even to species extinction (9). The global environment is undergoing rapid

change due to anthropogenic disturbance (10), and these changes have already altered some sexually selected behavior (11, 12). Sexually selected morphological traits may also be vulnerable, depending on the relative importance of ecological effects, reproductive benefits, and a trait's phenotypic and/or genetic plasticity, as well as the magnitude of environmental change.

Here we examine the evolutionary and ecological factors influencing the mane of the African lion. Manes are sexually dimorphic, develop at puberty, and are highly variable; thus, the mane has long been considered a sexually selected trait (13). Mane size and darkness are reduced in populations and subspecies living in hot climates [see supporting

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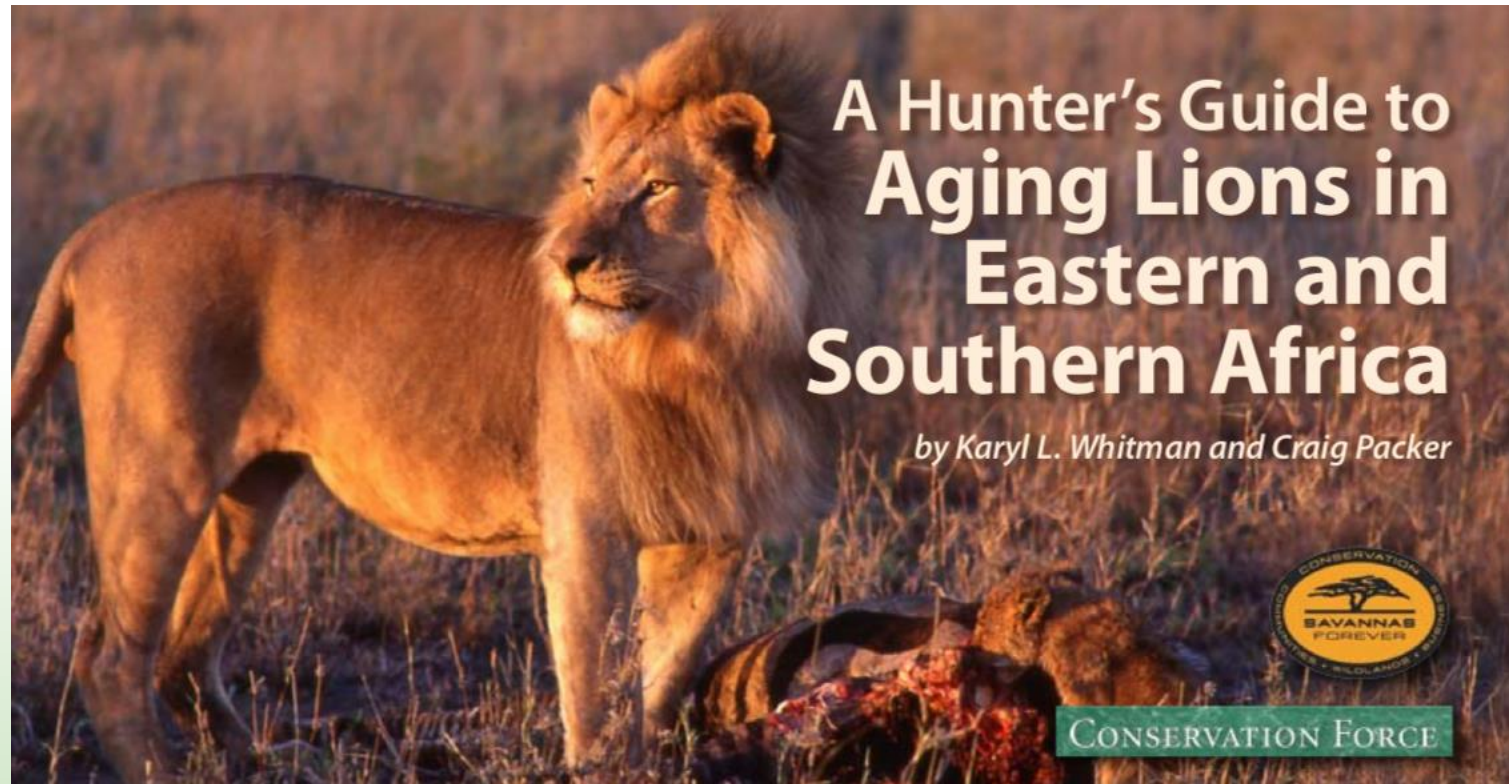
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Sustainable trophy hunting of African lions

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In most species, sport hunting of male trophy animals can only reduce overall population size when the rate of removal of males is so high that females can no longer be impregnated¹. However, where males provide extensive paternal care, the removal of even a few individuals could harm the population as a whole^{2,3}. In species such as lions, excessive trophy hunting could theoretically cause male replacements (and associated infanticide^{4,5}) to become sufficiently common to prevent cubs reaching adulthood. Here we simulate the population consequences of lion trophy hunting using a spatially explicit, individual-based, stochastic model parameterized with 40 years of demographic data from northern Tanzania. Although our simulations confirm that infanticide increases the risk of population extinction, trophy hunting could be sustained simply by hunting males above a minimum age threshold, and this strategy maximizes both the





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Serengeti Shall Not Die

FZS is one of Germany's oldest conservation organizations, active for more than 50 years in Serengeti and beyond



How FZS works

- Biodiversity and wilderness
- Protected areas
- Partnerships
- Resource protection
- Community engagement

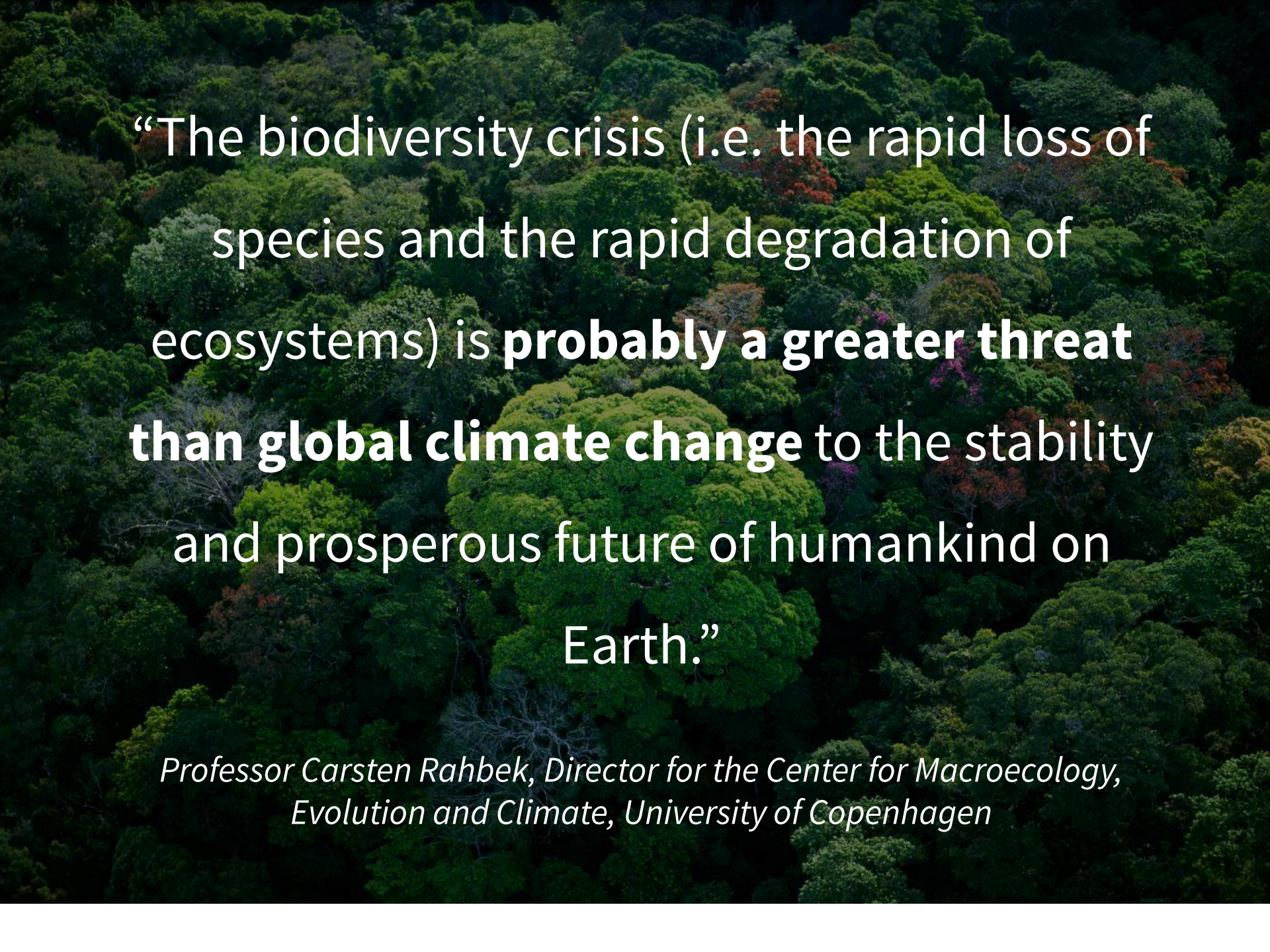


Practical Long-term On the ground





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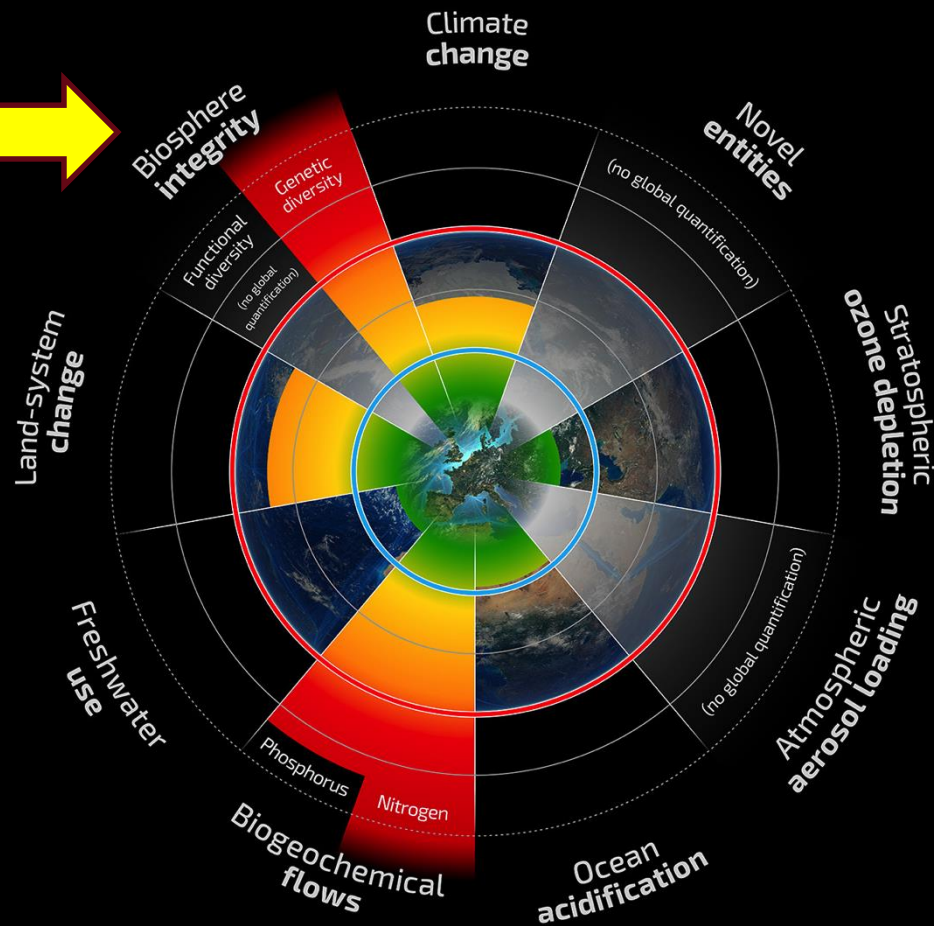


“The biodiversity crisis (i.e. the rapid loss of species and the rapid degradation of ecosystems) is **probably a greater threat than global climate change** to the stability and prosperous future of humankind on Earth.”

Professor Carsten Rahbek, Director for the Center for Macroecology, Evolution and Climate, University of Copenhagen

Planetary Boundaries

A safe operating space for humanity



Red

Beyond zone of uncertainty
(high risk)

Yellow

In zone of uncertainty
(increasing risk)

Green

Below boundary (safe)

“The main factor currently driving biodiversity loss is habitat destruction.”

- Harvard University Center for Health and Global Environment



Source: [Threats to Biodiversity and Ecosystems](#); [Palm Oil Co, 2016](#)

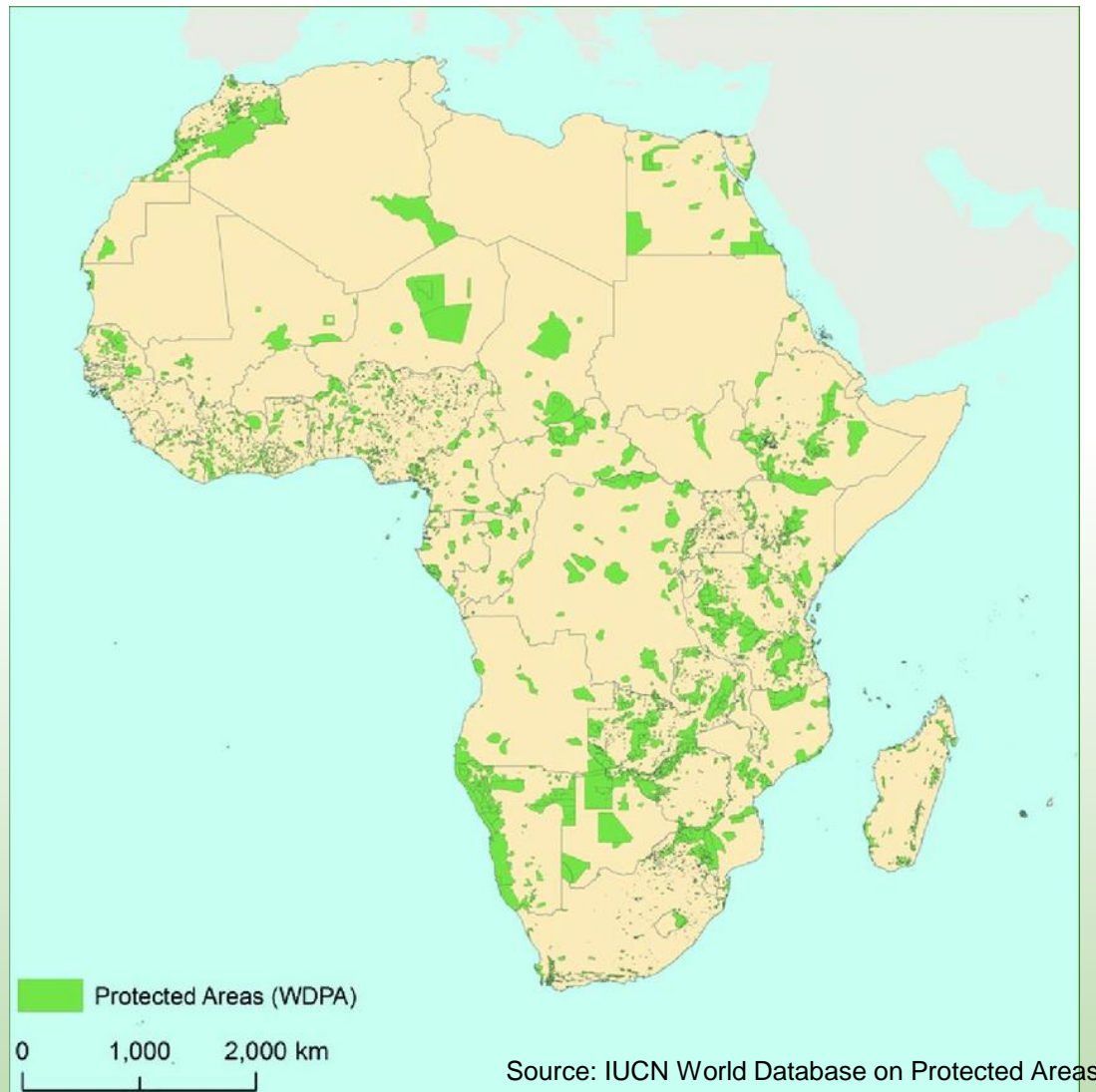


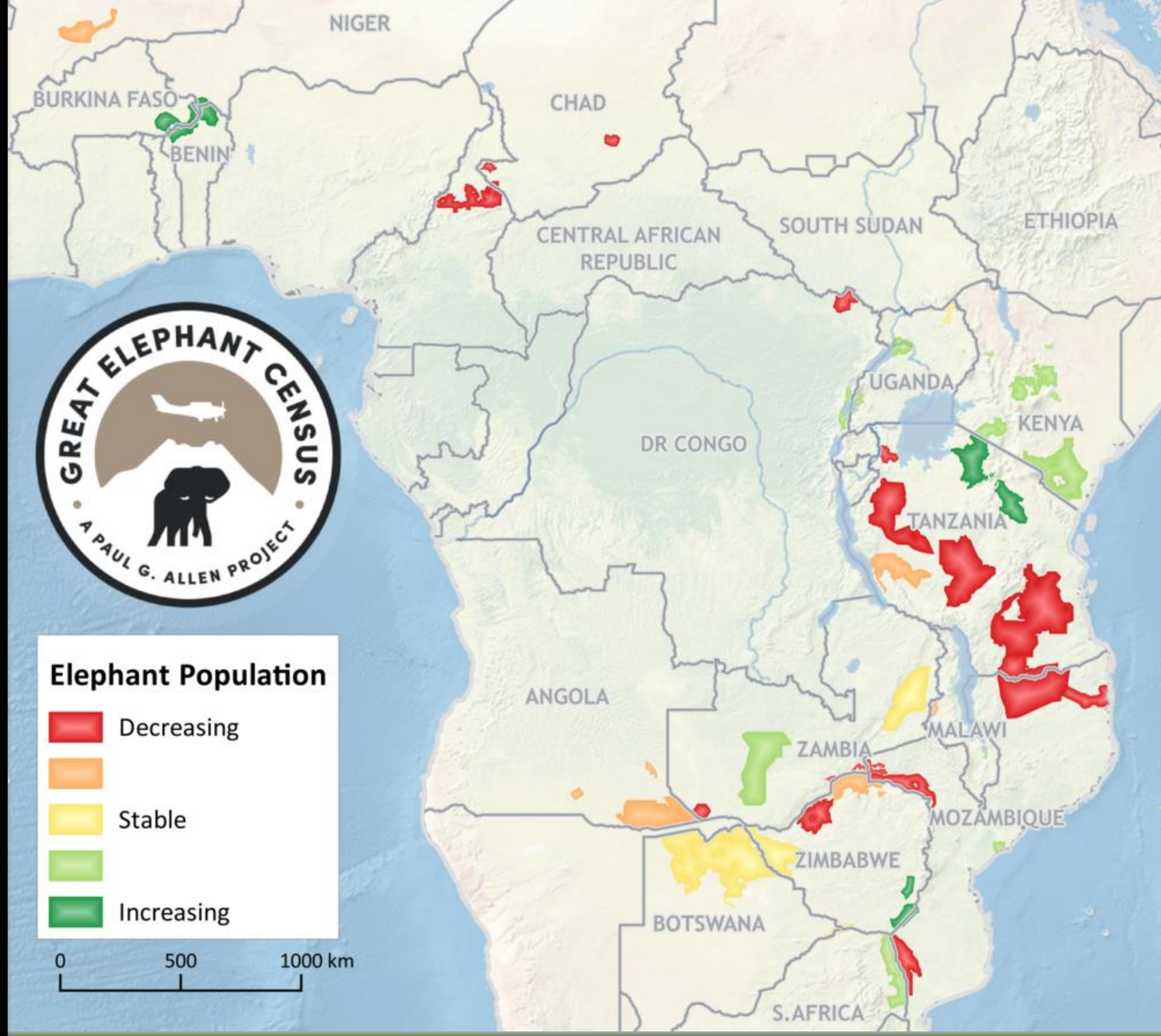
“Protected areas: the cornerstone of biodiversity conservation”

- Chape et al. 2005

Source: Chape S, Harrison J, Spalding M, Lysenko I (2005) Measuring the extent and effectiveness of areas as an indicator for meeting global biodiversity targets. *Philos Trans R Soc Lond, B* 360:443–455.

Protected areas in Africa





Threats to African Protected Areas



Buffer zone:

- An area peripheral to a national park or equivalent reserve, where restrictions are placed upon resource use or special development measures are undertaken to enhance the conservation values of the area.
- **A gradient of protection around the core site**

Source: UNEP-WCMC 2014, Biodiversity A-Z website: www.biodiversitya-z.org, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK.

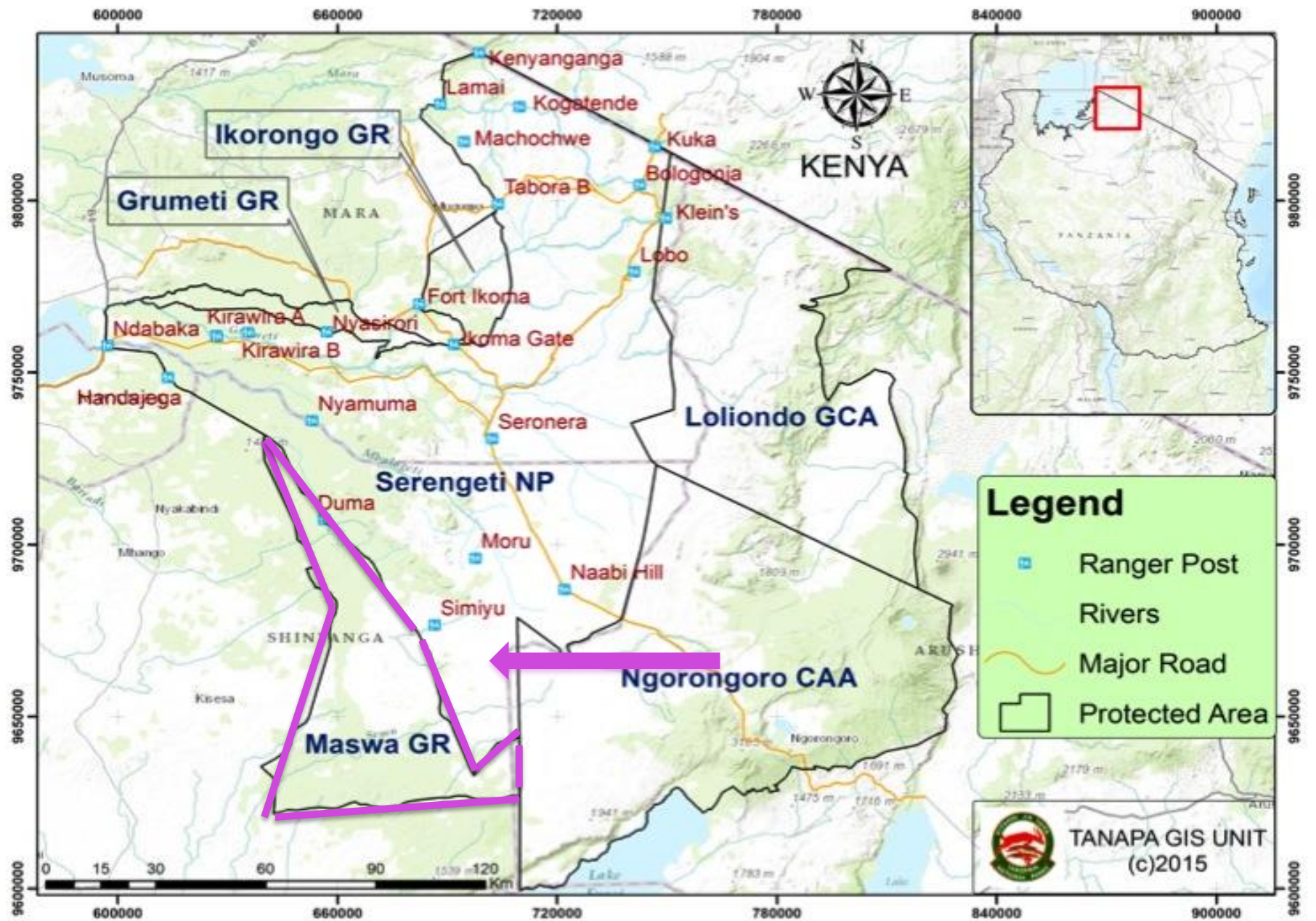


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Serengeti National Park, Tanzania



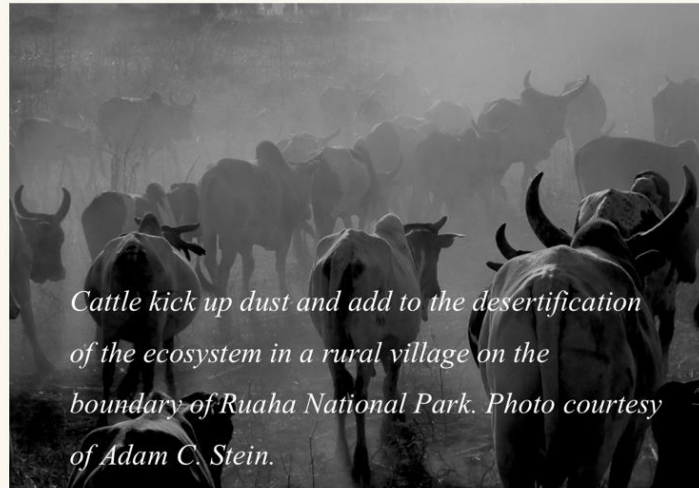












Tanzania Prepares to Hand Wildlife Reserves Over to Farmers and Livestock

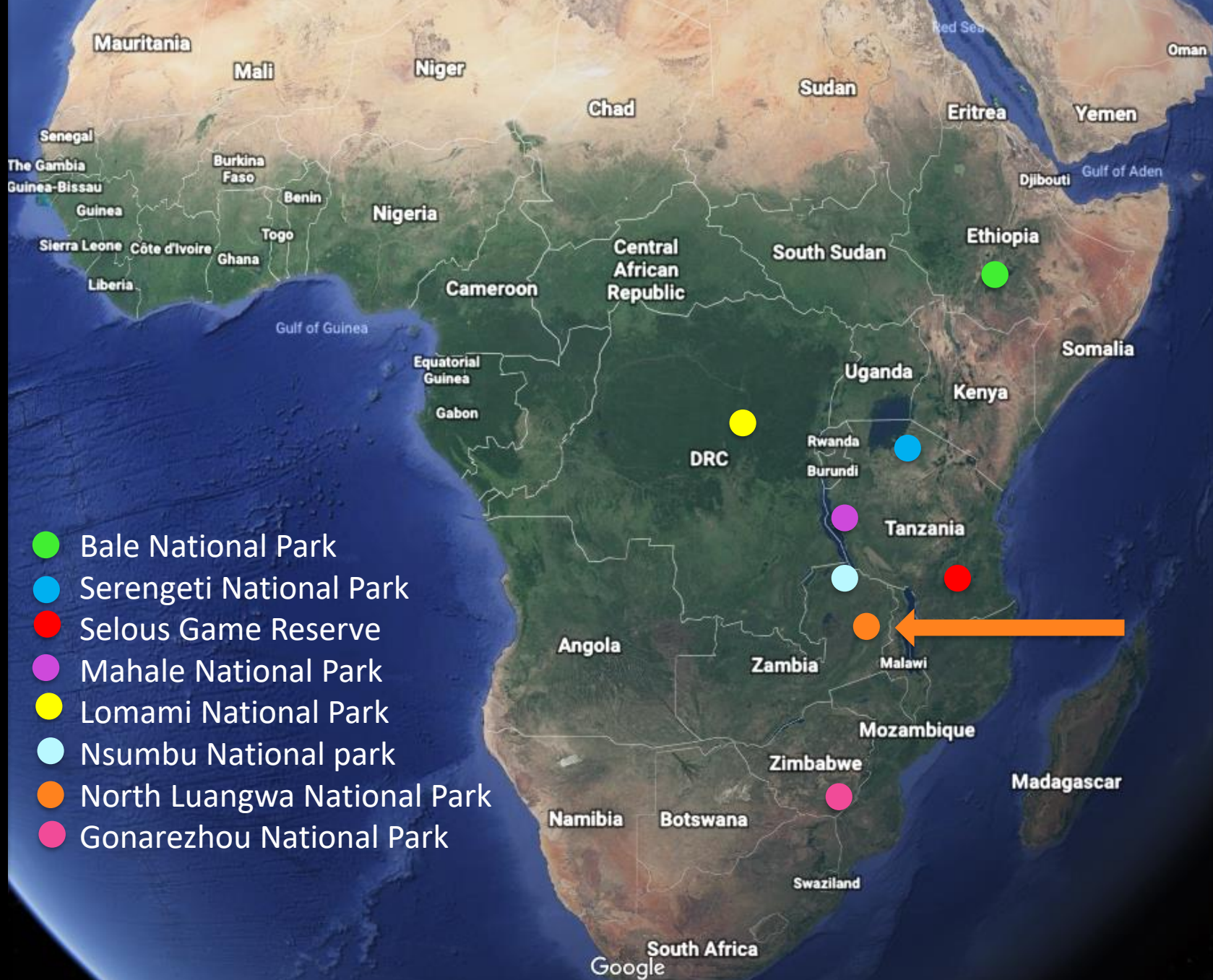
Homepage » TANZANIA: Five game reserves officially transformed into national parks

TANZANIA: Five game reserves officially transformed into national parks

By Jean Marie Takouleu - Published on February 28 2019 / Modified on February 28 2019

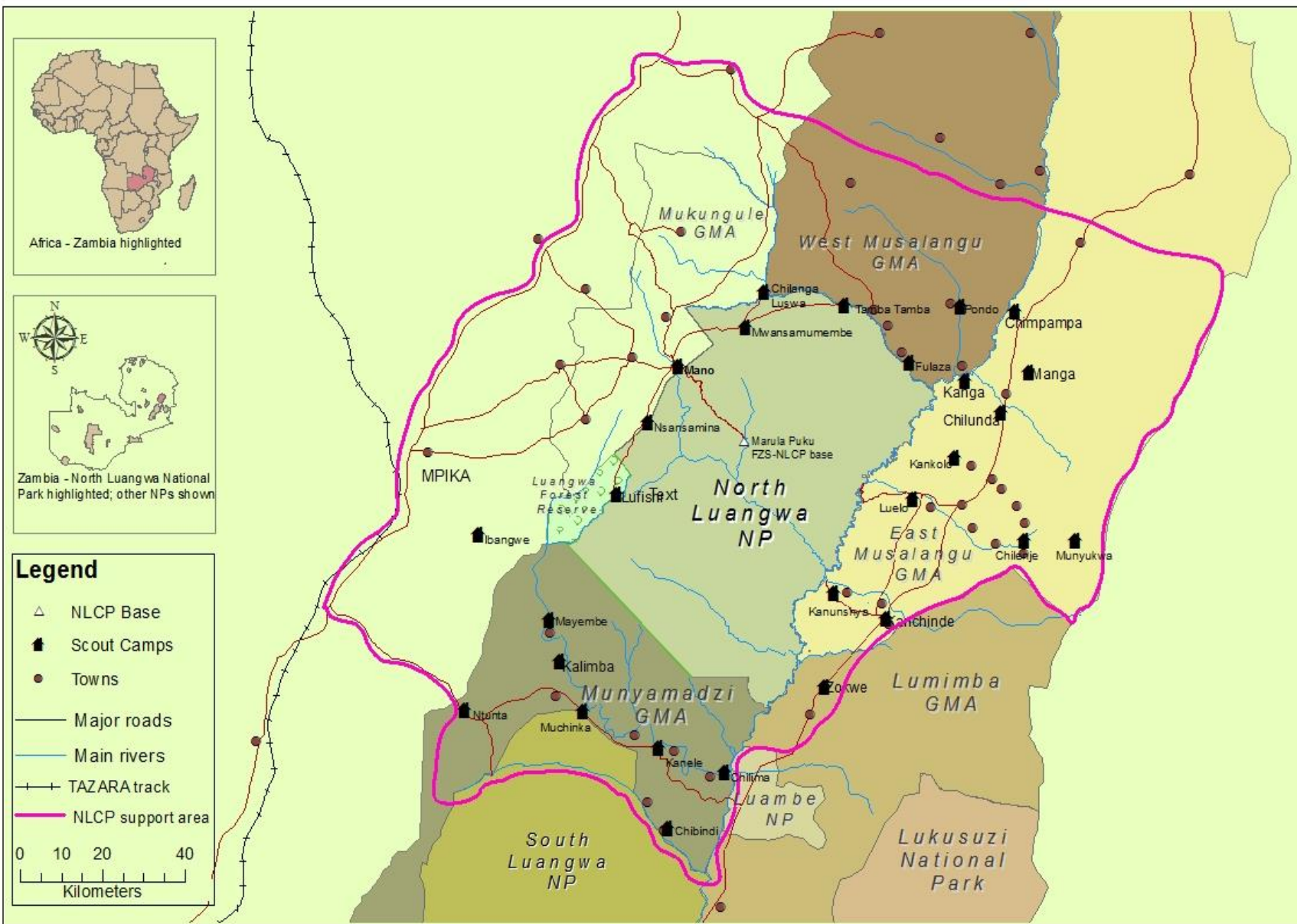


The Tanzanian government's plan to transform five game reserves into national parks was recently unanimously approved by parliament. Biharamuro, Burigi, Kimisi, Ibanda and Rumanyika thus become national parks.

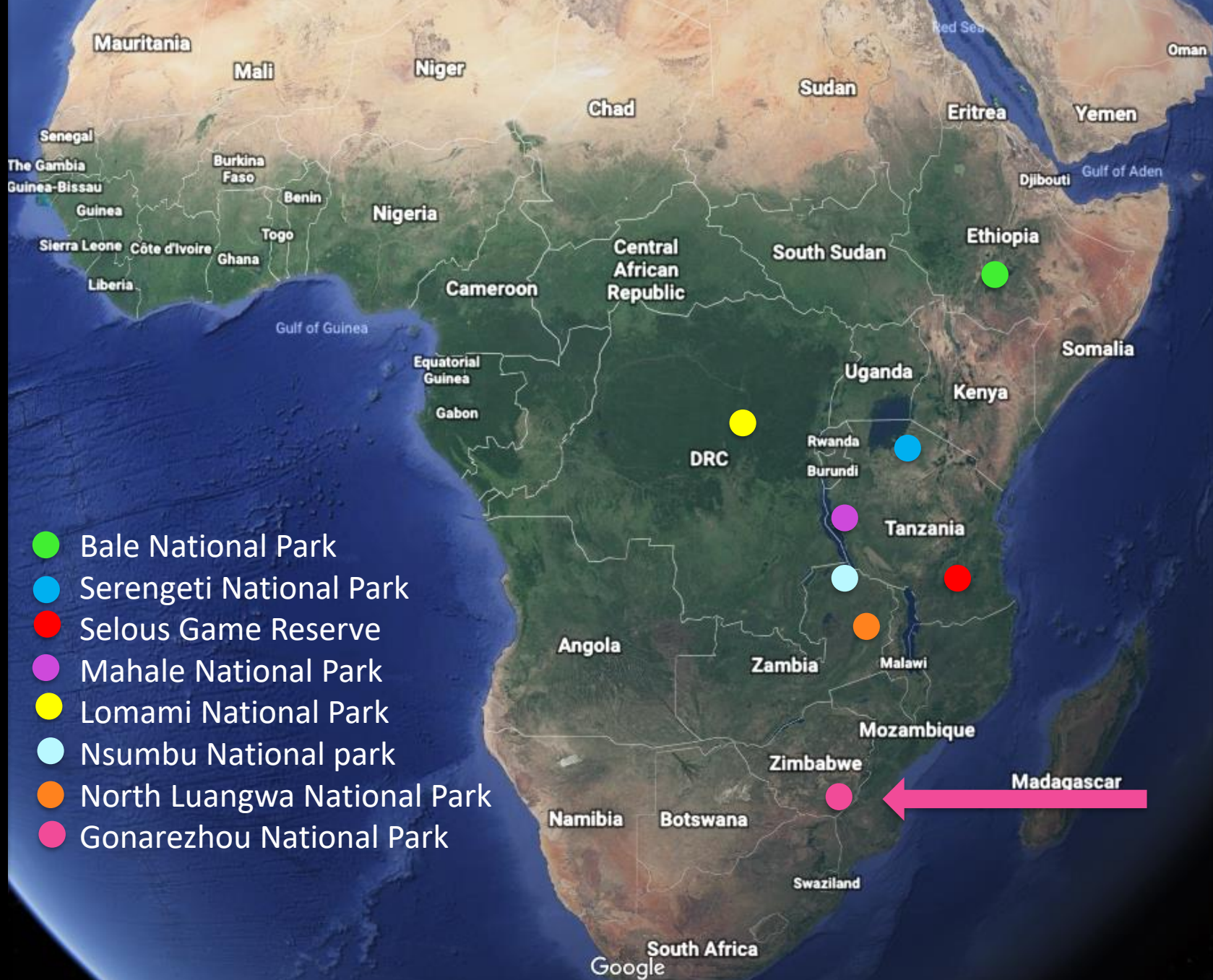


North Luangwa National Park, Zambia



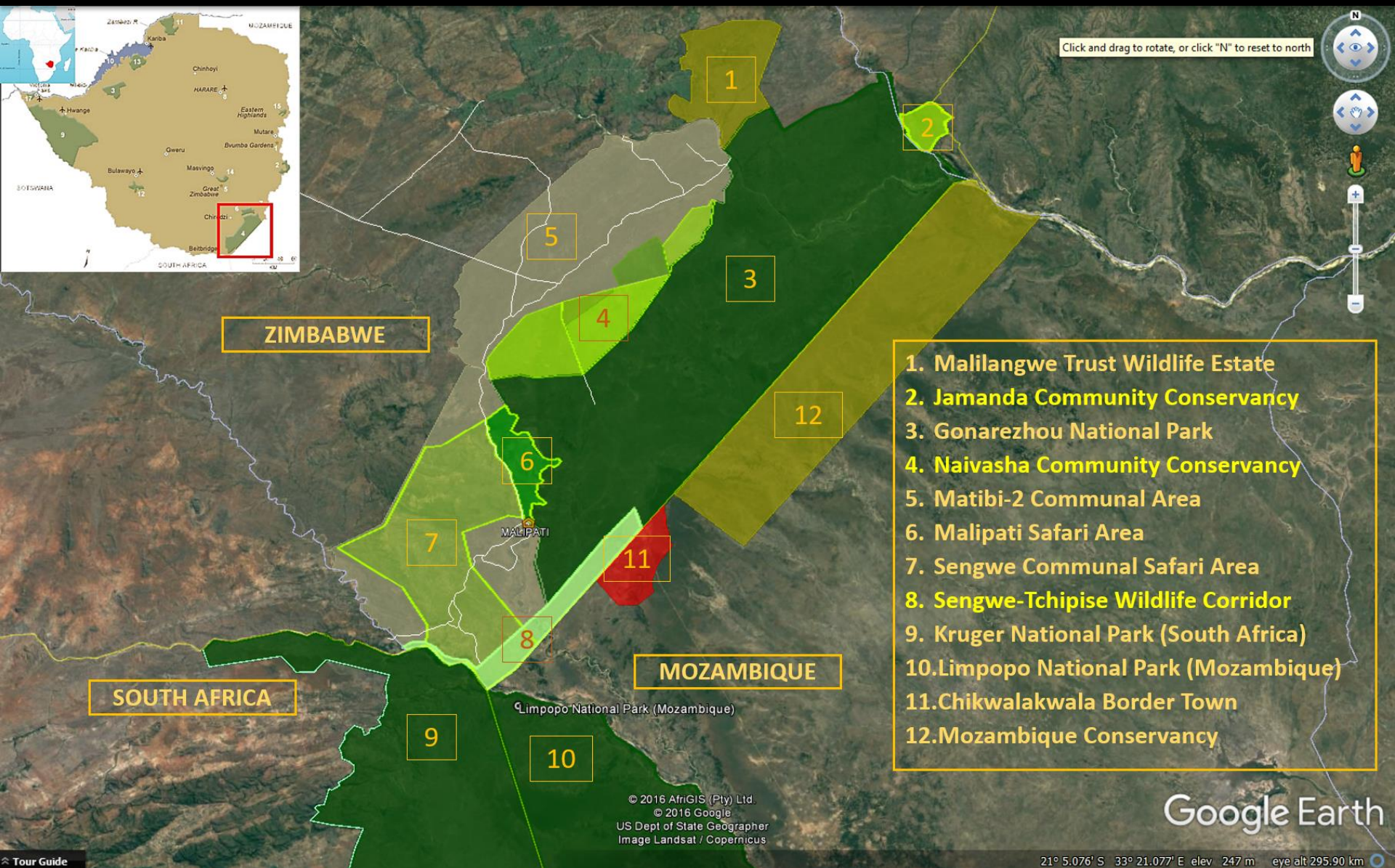




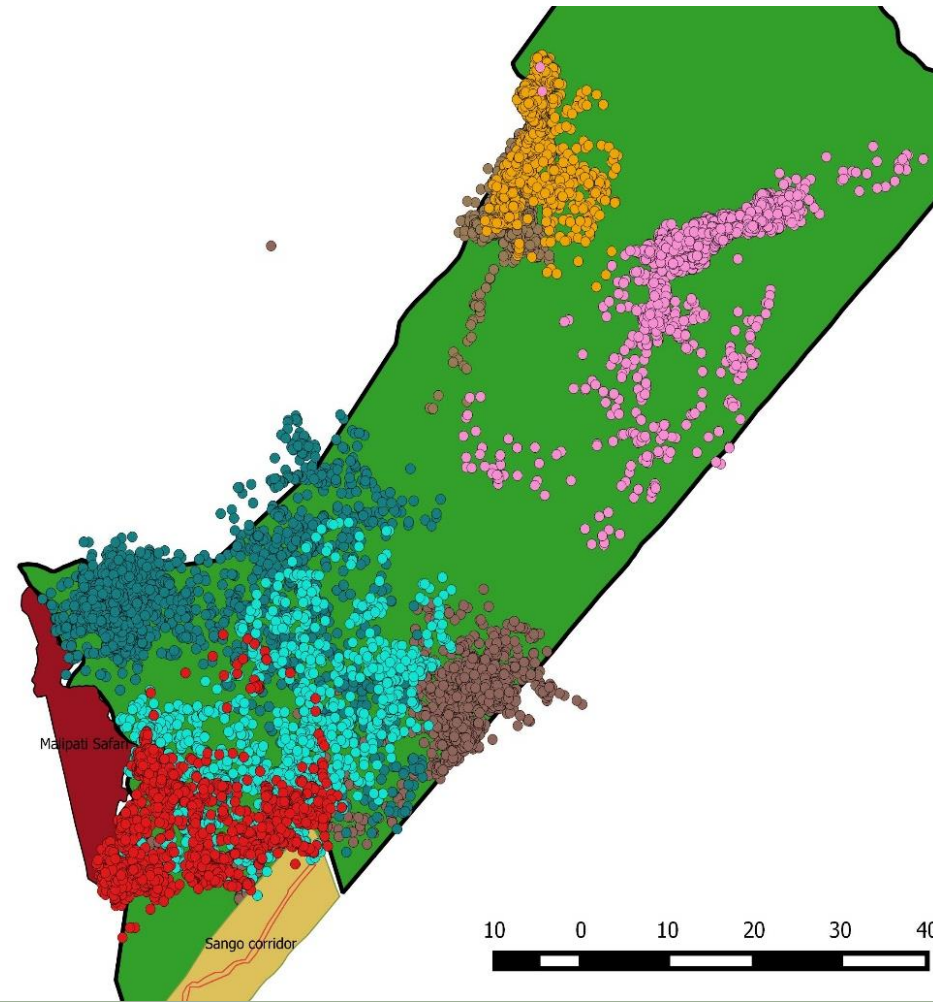
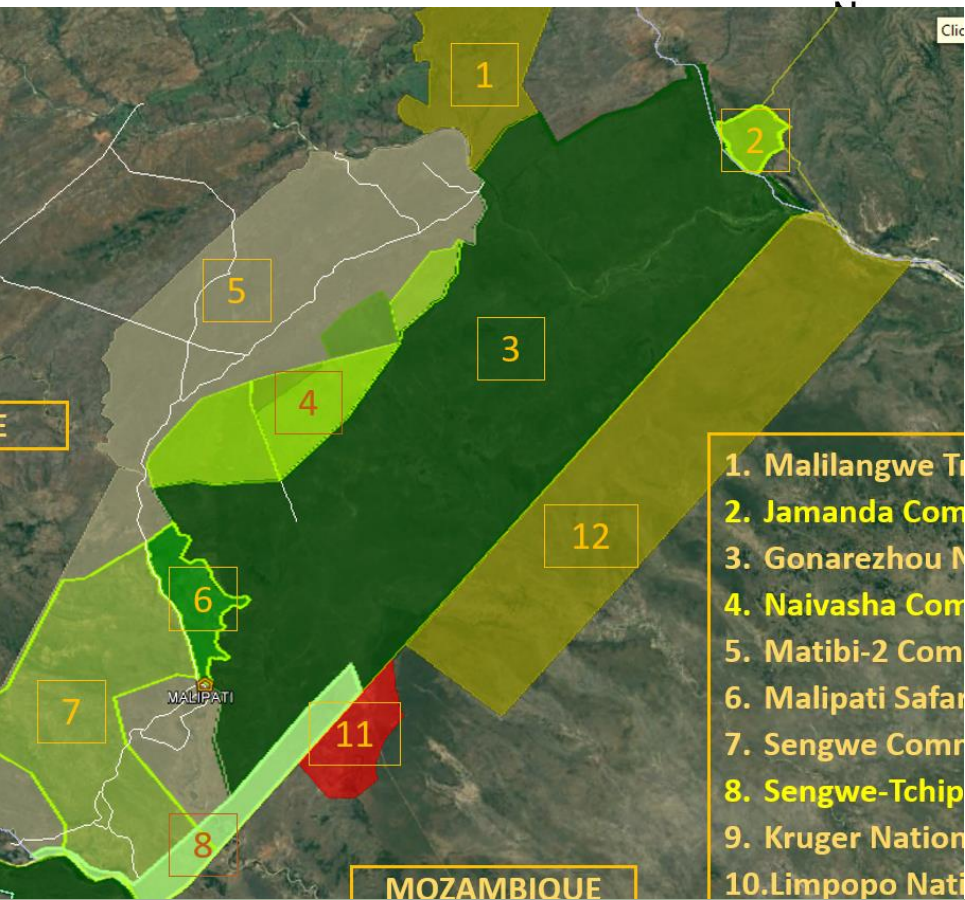


Gonarezhou National Park, Zimbabwe





Gonarezhou elephant movement







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Protected Areas Work

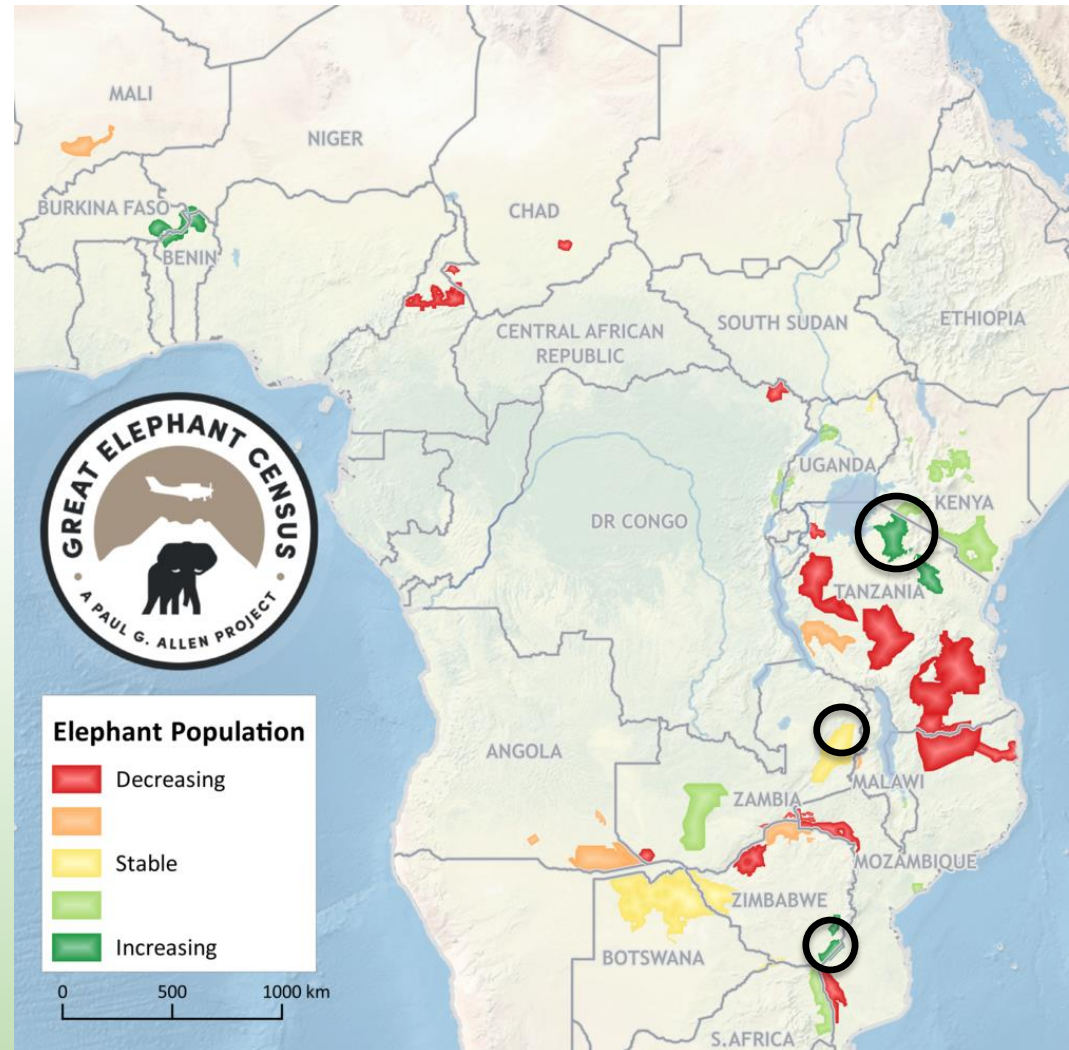
US edition ~
theguardian

Biodiversity greater inside Earth's protected areas, study finds

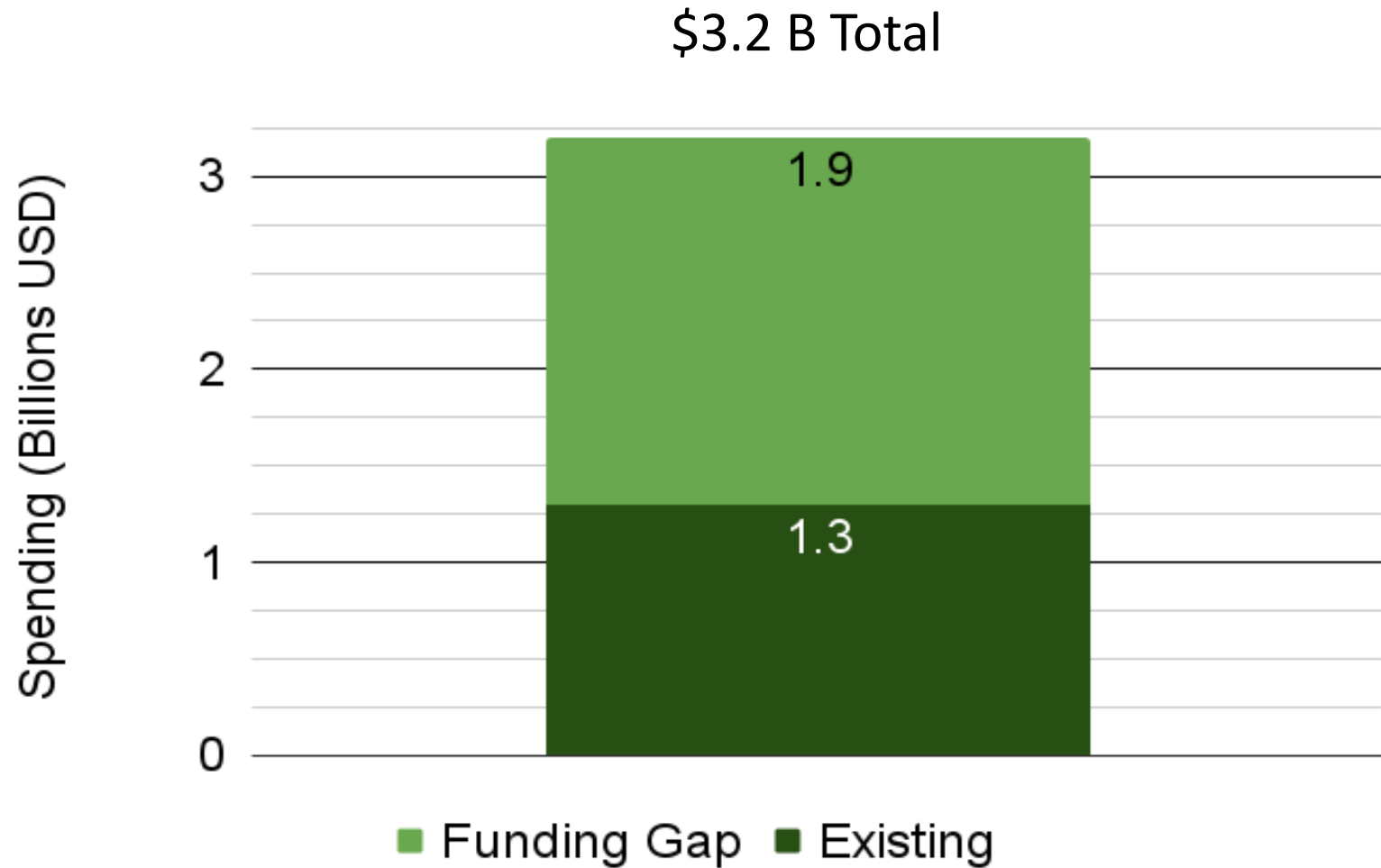
Scientists show for the first time that there are 15% more individual plants and animals and 11% more species inside terrestrial conservation zones



📌 A butterfly on a leaf in Yasuni national park, Ecuador, one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. Photograph: Dolores Ochoa/AP



Protected Area Spending Need in Developing Countries



Sources: James et al. *BioScience*, Volume 51, Issue 1, 1 January 2001, Pages 43–52; internal analysis











“From year to year, the threat of extermination hangs over these wild animals, and it is very unlikely that our children will ever see them as we can see them now—the vast procession of zebras, gazelles and wildebeest moving across the open plains...”

- Alan Morehead, 1960, *Serengeti Shall Not Die*

A herd of elephants is wading in a river at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that reflects on the water. The elephants are silhouetted against the bright light. The river is surrounded by a sandy bank on the right and some trees on the left.

Thank you